

ABSTRACT

Biological retrieval system employing a DNA biological specimen repository and robotic mechanism for automated retrieval and processing of the individual specimens. The DNA repository includes individual specimens which include an identification code readable by the robotic assembly and correlated with medical information about the individual whose specimen is on file. The medical information is housed within a database. Upon request, a population sample is determined from the database and the robotic system retrieves particular specimens for subsequent processing. Selected specimens are delivered to a first staging area. At that point, a feeder assembly relocates the biological specimens to a second staging area for punching by a punch head assembly. The punch head assembly moves each pellet or punched sample to a predetermined location, such as for example, a single well of a multiwell tray for subsequent biological processing.